

JOSEPH A. JACHIMCZYK, M.D., J.D.
FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST
ATTORNEY AT LAW
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER



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OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
OF HARRIS COUNTY
HARRIS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

AUTOPSY REPORT

CASE 73 - 3337

August 10, 1973

PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSES ON THE BODY

OF

Richard Edward Hembree
1426 West 21st Street
Houston, Texas

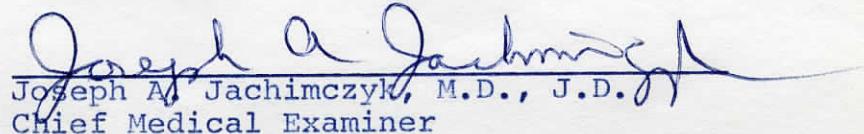
1. Asphyxia due to strangulation.
2. Gunshot wound of mouth, through and through.

OPINION

It is our opinion that the decedent, Richard Edward Hembree, came to his death as a result of asphyxia due to strangulation and gunshot wound of mouth, Homicide.

It is our further opinion that death occurred on or about October 5, 1972. The decedent was last seen alive with Unknown #5, Wally Jay Simoneaux.

COMMENT: In view of the above, it is our opinion, based upon a reasonable medical probability, these are the remains of Richard Edward Hembree.


Joseph A. Jachimczyk, M.D., J.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

(See Companion Cases 73 - 3332, 73-3333, 73-3334, 73-3335, 73-3336, 73-3338, 73-3339, 73-3347, 73-3348, 73-3349, 73-3350, 73-3353, 73-3354, 73-3355, 73-3356 and 73-3357).

POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF

Richard Edward Hembree
1426 West 21st Street
Houston, Texas

HISTORY: The skeletal remains of this unidentified young male teenager (Unknown #6) was one of the eight bodies recovered at 4500 Silverbell Street, Houston, Texas, Stall #11, between 6:00 p.m. and midnight on August 8, 1973. These remains were found together with the remains of Unknown #5, Unknown #7 and Unknown #8 from the same grave site. (See Companion Cases 73 - 3332, 73-3333, 73-3334, 73-3335, 73-3336, 73-3338, 73-3339, 73-3347, 73-3348, 73-3349, 73-3350, 73-3353, 73-3354, 73-3355, 73-3356 and 73-3357).

AUTOPSY: The autopsy was performed by Chief Medical Examiner Joseph A. Jachimczyk, M.D., assisted by Assistant Medical Examiner Ethel E. Erickson, M.D., and Dr. Paul G. Stimson, beginning at 11:15 a.m. on August 10, 1973, in the Harris County Morgue.

EXTERNAL APPEARANCE: A decomposing mass of bones and soft tissue of a human body weighing 50 pounds were received in a crash bag. The body was partially covered with plastic. The head had been covered with a plastic bag which was tied with a ligature around the neck. The face was covered with adhesive tape. No gag was found in the mouth. The head was covered with dark brown hair. The length of the body from the knee joint to the top of the head was 46 inches. The body was that of a young Caucasian teenager male. No bullets were found on X-rays of the body. The head was attached to the torso and upper portions of the arms, and the femurs were also attached. A right foot and fibula were present. Some skin and soft tissue were present, extending from the head of the femur. Seen separately were multiple odd bones. There was a 1/4 inch gunshot wound of entrance in the right side of the mouth. There was an exit wound on the left side of the neck. There was considerable tissue deterioration.

PATH OF THE MISSILE: The missile nicked the inner aspect of the corocoid process of the right condyle of the mandible. It also damaged the third molar area of the posterior aspect of the right maxilla, so the bullet passed from right to left and from front toward back and exited the soft tissues of the neck.

The following described skeletal remains were found in the common grave together with Unknowns #5, #7, and #8. The bones were separated on the basis of age and height. The identifiable remains, which could be assigned to this case number, were as follows: The skull; the skull was intact. The mandible was present. All teeth were present. The skull was that of a young teenaged, apparently Caucasian, individual. The right ramus of the mandible showed an area of damage on its anterior margin, consistent with a small caliber gunshot wound. There were linear fractures extending posteriorly and superiorly from this halfmoon shaped notch in the anterior margin. The margins of the notch were quite irregular. Postmortem X-rays of this area disclosed tiny fragments of metallic material within the wound area. Similarly, the posterior aspect of the maxilla in the region of the unerupted third molar also showed an area of damage and again, postmortem X-rays disclosed tiny bits of metallic material. The distinctive feature of this skull was its shape. The calvarium was not symmetrical. The left temporal parietal area was quite flat, whereas the right temporoparietal area bulged prominently. The forehead was minimally asymmetric with the right frontal area bulging more than the left. The occipital area was asymmetric, the left occiput being more prominent than the right. The suture lines were coincidentally asymmetric with the right coronal suture laying slightly anterior to the plane of the left coronary suture. The right lambdoid suture also lay more anteriorly than the left lambdoid suture. The sagittal suture lay in the mid line in its posterior half and angled slightly toward the left in its anterior half. The greatest and most noteable area of asymmetry lay in the occipital bone. This bone was quite asymmetric with the left side of this bone being substantially more prominent than the right. The ectocranial suture lines were completely unfused. The calvarium was intact.

SPINAL COLUMN: The seven cervical vertebrae were present and intact and totally skeletonized. Thoracic vertebrae 8 through 12 and the lumbar vertebrae 1 through 5 and the coccyx were present, still remaining together and adherent with multiple bits of decomposing soft tissue. Also in the immediate vicinity of the coccyx were two portions of the pelvis, these being the eschial pubic complexes. The point of fusion of the ischium and pubis showed stage IV fusion. Fusion of the ischio pubic complex to the ilium was stage 0 and portions of tissue were completely separated. The iliac crests showed the billowy, wavy configuration of early teenage chronology. All of the foregoing bones were intact. Two clavicles, right and left, both showing stage 0 fusion of the proximal and distal epiphyses were both intact.

Right and left clavicles, showing stage 0 fusion of all six epiphyses. Both corocoid epiphyses were present and intact.

All 24 ribs were present and intact.

Arms, the right an left ulna, and the right and left radius were present. They were intact. Their proximal and distal epiphyses showed stage 0 fusion.

Both humeri were present and intact. Their proximal and distal epiphyses showed stage 0 fusion. The proximal epiphyses were present.

LEGS: Both femurs were present. The proximal and distal epiphyses showed stage 0 fusion. The greater and lesser trochanteric epiphyses showed stage 0 fusion. The capital epiphyses were present in separate specimens. They were intact. One patella was present. Both tibia were present. The proximal and distal epiphyses showed stage 0 fusion. One fibula was present. Its proximal and distal epiphyses showed stage 0 fusion.

The manubrium sterni also was present and intact. There were no more remains which could be positively identified as being associated with the above listed bones.

Some dark brown hair, which was removed from the scalp area of the skull prior to its cleaning, was placed in the container with these remains.

DENTAL EXAMINATION

Universal System: No fillings. The four third molars are unerupted. There is caries in the distal occlusal of the upper right second molar, #2, and the distal and central grooves of the upper right first molar, #3; there is slight mesial buccal rotation of the upper left central, #9; there is occlusal caries in the upper left second molar, #15; there is distal caries in the lower right first molar, #30; there is occlusal caries in the lower right second molar, #31, the jaw relationships are normal. There is a gunshot tract through the inner aspect of the ramus of the right mandible. There is slight damage to the maxilla on the right in the tuberosity area.

Paul G. Stimson
Paul G. Stimson, D.D.S., M.S.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

On August 20, 1973, I had a telephone conversation with the father of Wally Jay Simoneaux (Unknown #5), in which I explained to him the problem of separating the remains of his son from those of a boy of similar age and stature, which were found together in the same grave. Mr. Simoneaux's reply was "My God, that must be Ricky". I asked him who Ricky was. He stated that this boy was a close companion of his son, Wally Jay Simoneaux, and further, that both boys had disappeared at the same time.

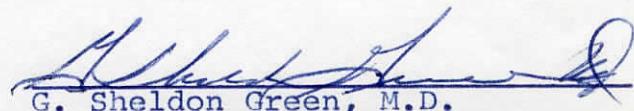
On August 23, 1973, at 1:30 p.m., the following persons came to the Harris County Morgue. These were: Mr. William Martin Greene, 1426 West 21st Street, Houston, Texas, no telephone, step-father of Richard Edward Hembree; Macia Rose, 3625 Meadowview Drive, Lithia Springs, Georgia, sister of decedent; and James H. Rose, 3625 Meadowview Drive, Lithia Springs, Georgia, brother-in-law of the decedent. These people, in the presence of Dr. Joseph A. Jachimczyk, Dr. Paul G. Stimson, Dr. Woodward, and myself (Dr. G. Sheldon Green), examined color photographs of clothing found in the common grave. Mr. Greene stated that Richard (Ricky) did have a flowered shirt similar to that illustrated in the color photograph, but was unable to make absolute identification of that object. He further stated that the wide leather belt, illustrated in the photograph, was similar to that worn by his step-son.

The above listed persons observed the teeth and jaws of the decedent, noting that Richard Edward Hembree had an unusually wide lower jaw and that the mandible in this case was of similar configuration. The teeth and jaws were compared with a school photograph supplied by Mrs. Rose. The school photograph showed that both upper lateral teeth were prominent and that the configuration of the upper laterals in the maxilla were similar to those in the photograph.

These persons also observed the skull which had been described previously was of abnormal or unusual shape. Mr. Greene stated that his step-son's head was flattened on one side, due to the fact that the child had always slept on one side as an infant. Upon viewing the skull, it was agreed that there was a marked deformity and that this deformity, in all respects, appeared similar to that of Richard Edward Hembree.

Dr. Jachimczyk, Dr. Stimson, and I (Dr. Green) stated our impressions that these remains did, in all reasonable probability, represented the body of Richard Edward Hembree, and Mr. Greene and Mrs. Rose stated orally to us that they were satisfied with the identification.

It was to be noted that this decedent and Wally Jay Simoneaux were close companions, disappeared at the same time, and were found in the same grave.



G. Sheldon Green, M.D.
Assistant Medical Examiner

Autopsy

INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT

Investigator: L. C. Kelly

View

Case No. 73 - 3337

Decedent: Richard Edward Hembree Race W Sex M Age 13

Address: 1426 West 21st Street, Houston, Texas

Death: FOUND August 8, 1973 Approx. Time 11:15 A.M.

Place of Death: 4500 Silverbell Street, Houston, Texas, Stall #11

Place of Inquest: 4500 Silverbell Street, Houston, Texas, Stall #11

Date and Time of Inquest: August 8, 1973 11:15 A.M.

P.M.

Location, Position, and Surroundings of Body:

The decedent was lying in grave #3 next to decedent Unknown #5, in the south end of Stall #11. The head was south and the legs were slightly bent to the east.

Clothing:

There was no clothing involved.

Information:

This was a related case to Medical Legal Case 73 - 3329.

(See Companion Cases 73 - 3332, 73-3333, 73-3334, 73-3335, 73-3336, 73-3338, 73-3339, 73-3347, 73-3348, 73-3349, 73-3350 73-3353, 73-3354, 73-3355, 73-3356 and 73-3357).

L. C. Kelly
L. C. Kelly

Property: There was no property involved.

Transferred to Morgue by: Brookwood Funeral Home, Houston, Texas

Funeral Home Conducting Service: Heights Funeral Home, Houston, Texas

STATE OF TEXAS

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

STATE FILE NO.

1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY HARRIS		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: residence before admission) a. STATE b. COUNTY	
b. CITY OR TOWN (If outside city limits, give precinct no.) Houston		c. LENGTH OF STAY in 1 b.	
d. NAME OF (If not in hospital, give street address) HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION 4500 Silverbell, Stall #11		e. CITY OR TOWN (If outside city limits, give precinct no.)	
e. IS PLACE OF DEATH INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		d. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location) 1426 West 21st Street	
e. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		e. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) RICHARD	(a) First RICHARD	(b) Middle EDWARD	(c) Last HEMBREE
5. SEX Male	6. COLOR OR RACE White	7. Married <input type="checkbox"/> Never Married <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/>	8. DATE OF BIRTH
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) Student	10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY School	11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)	9. AGE (In years last birthday) Months <input type="checkbox"/> Days <input type="checkbox"/> Hours <input type="checkbox"/> Minutes <input type="checkbox"/>
13. FATHER'S NAME		14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME	
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown)		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	
17. INFORMANT			
18. CAUSE OF DEATH [Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c).] PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) Conditions, if any, which gave rise to above cause (a), stating the under- lying cause last. } DUE TO (b) } DUE TO (c)		Asphyxia due to strangulation and gunshot wound of mouth.	
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I(a)		19. WAS AUTOPSY PER- FORMED? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
20a. ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> SUICIDE <input type="checkbox"/> HOMICIDE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED. (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of Item 18.) Strangled and shot.		
20c. TIME OF INJURY a.m. UNK p.m. 8	Hour found	Day 8	Year 73
20d. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/> NOT WHILE AT WORK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20e. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, street, office, building, etc.) 4500 Silverbell, Stall #11		20f. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Houston
21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from from autopsy findings		20g. COUNTY Harris STATE Texas	
22a. SIGNATURE <i>Joseph A. Jachimczyk, M.D.</i>		22b. ADDRESS 209 Courthouse Houston, Texas	22c. DATE SIGNED 8-28-73
23a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) Cremation		23b. DATE	23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORIAL Brookside Crematory
23d. LOCATION (City, town, or county) Houston (State) Texas		24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE HETZLER FUNERAL HOME	
25a. REGISTRAR'S FILE NO.	25b. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REGISTRAR		25c. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE

23337

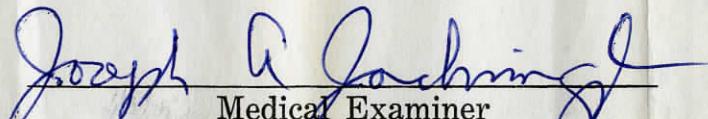
AUTHORITY TO CREMATE

#54

This form must be accompanied by Authority to Cremate signed by proper relative or legal representative of the deceased together with cremation permit from Bureau of Vital Statistics and certified copy of Death Certificate.

I, Joseph A. Jachimczyk, M.D., Medical Examiner of Harris County, Texas, do hereby certify to Brookside Crematory, Houston, Harris County, Texas, pursuant to Article 49.25 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of Texas, as amended, that an autopsy was ~~was not~~ performed on the dead body of Richard Edward Hembree, found whose death occurred on the 8th day of August, A.D. 1973 County of Harris State of Texas, and I further certify that said body may be lawfully cremated.

GIVEN under my hand this 28-th day of August, A.D. 1973


Joseph A. Jachimczyk
Medical Examiner
Harris County, Texas
Joseph A. Jachimczyk, M.D.